REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. Claims 8-14 and 19-20 have been elected without traverse. Also, claims 23-30 have been added

Applicants respectfully request an early examination on the elected claims 8-14 and 19-20, as well as new claims 23-30, and favorable action on the merits. If the Examiner has any questions with this Response, please feel free to call the undersigned at the indicated telephone number.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP

Mel R. Quintos

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